THE NEW!

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CULTURE CRINGE

Fall 2025, AKA Halloween Edition

EXCLUSIVE

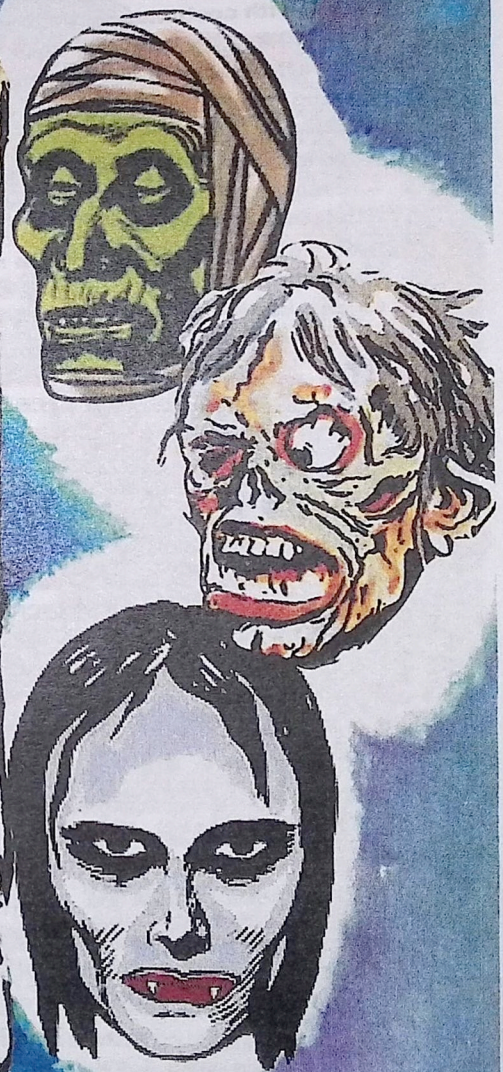
NEW → Halloween themed articles.....for your amusement!!! No BONES about it!

Amazing INTERVIEW: Q&A with DEAN GARCIA of the legendary band CURVE

NEW → The terrifying tale about the time I lived in a..... HAUNTED HOUSE!

NEW → More of the content you expect...love... and deserve..... But HEX-TRA special!

EXCLUSIVE



WELCOME BACK TO ANOTHER ISSUE!

IT'S THE FALL AND HALLOWEEN TIME ISSUE

One thing that may surprise you is that even though I love halloween and stuff, I am not a huge fan of halloween costumes. Is that ~~wierd~~ weird? I don't think so. I love going out and doing festive things, but costumes just aren't for me. SORRY. I do love really cool masks and have a pretty swell collection of them, but I get sorta claustrophobic when I put them on. Same with costumes, I suddenly feel not so comfortable when wearing one. NOW, I am known to wear very casual costumes - ones that involve little effort with maximum effect. It's funny that I'm like this because around five years ago, we put together a totally screen accurate AND I MEAN SCREEN ACCURATE Rocketeer costume for me to wear. It's pretty amazing. The helmet, the jetpack, the leather jacket, the boots, the pants.. ....even the gloves have a trigger switch that turns the jetpack lights on. But leave it to me to assemble such a costume during an era when all the halloween festivities were at a minimum (I'm talking 2020, 2021, ya know). So I didn't really get to wear it out much. I did wear it to one event on the square but it was like, 85 degrees outside and I almost died from heat exhaustion. TRUE STORY. (ok I'm exaggerating a little)

"I'M DRESSING UP TO DANCE ALL WEEK.....I'M DRESSING UP TO SLEIGH"

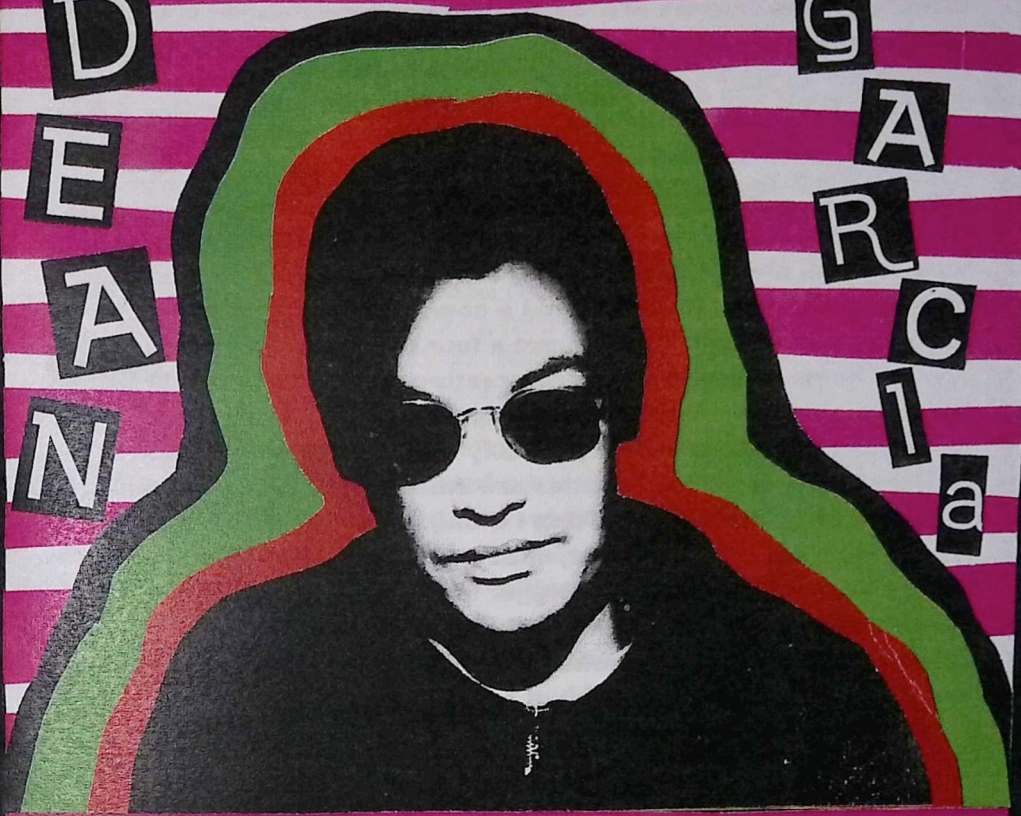
Maybe it stems from the fact that I don't really like dressing up in general, but I will dress up when the opportunity calls for it. But ONLY then. There are people who dress up nearly every DAY of their life - usually because their chosen career calls for it. I like dressing up in the winter time just fine, the summer time is a much tougher sell.

I need to clarify that I do VERY MUCH ~~appreciate~~ appreciate fine fashion on a daily basis as well as great halloween costumes. I'm a big fan of people watching and when I see someone dressed to the 9's on a random day, I dig it. Just some clarification. Thanks.

Since it is the halloween season, I would like to take a moment to recognize Nashville's legendary local TV horror host, Dr. Gangrene. He's been ruling the local SCARE-waves for over 20 years now, and seems to show no signs of slowing down. His show airs on the Nashville cable access NECAT network on Saturday nights at 9. You can get the NECAT Roku app and watch it that way, or watch it on your computer if you're into that kinda thing. He also does quarterly live shows from the NECAT studio, which is free to attend. Those are a blast. I've been fortunate to be able to help out with the show some, once appearing as GUNTHER, the monster that lives in his laboratory walls. I've also been a GUEST on his show, where I talked about super nerdy things. OH and I recorded the theme song to the show! Almost forgot about that. SO YEAH I guess I need to offer up a disclaimer now - even though I am (somewhat) associated with the show, I remain foremost as a huge fan...and will always help promote everything that Dr. Gangrene does! Follow him on social medias and watch an episode of the show sometime if you've never checked it out.

INTERVIEW

DEAN GARCIA



WITH ONE OF MY ABSOLUTE FAVORITE MUSICIANS OF ALL TIME, DEAN GARCIA

In the mid-90s, I heard a song on the radio (most likely **Thunder 94 FM**) and it stopped me dead in my tracks. The song was **"Horror Head"** by a band I was pretty unfamiliar with: **CURVE**. I immediately bought their CD **Doppelgänger** and wore it out. Instant fan, and have been since. CURVE was composed of **Dean Garcia** and **Toni Halliday**, so getting to interview Dean was a real treat. It's not everyday you get to interview someone who helped shape the soundtrack to your glory days. **READ ON!**

DEAN GARCIA currently is active in the amazing group SPC ECO. While I'm a huge fan of them, it should be noted that I have been a long time HUGE fan of his group CURVE, who put out generation defining music in the 90s. Their albums Doppelgänger, Cuckoo, Come Clean, Gift, The New Adventures of Curve, along with their many singles and EPs are required listening. REQUIRED. While most of their stuff isn't on Spotify (Youtube music is plentiful, however if you rely on the streams), I highly recommend the CD box set Unreadable Communication - which compiles their early stuff and is IN PRINT! A lot of their stuff has been reissued on vinyl recently, and their first album Doppelgänger will once again be reissued in November. Also, ALL their stuff is on their bandcamp (https://curve.bandcamp.com). SPC ECO can be heard on their bandcamp (https://spceco.bandcamp.com/) as well as most streaming platforms. On with the interview!

CC: I've read that **Curve** had a home studio, and I'm sure that was a huge factor in your early rapid releases and quick success. How different do you think **Curve** would have been if you would have had to rely on recording in an external studio that you both maybe weren't as comfortable in?

Dean: The fact that we had our own creative recording work space was crucial, always has been, my first instrument of choice is always a recorder of sorts, I had a sound on sound 1/4 inch tape recorder when I was 13, then got a four track and up from there, always home based, the idea of creating music in an alien "professional" environment just doesn't sit well on any level for me. Regarding how different - it probably wouldn't have happened at all, professional recording facilities are intimidating to say the least, I've never made or created anything I thought was good in one. Always have your own set up to start, once you have something that you love then it's ok to embellish in a bigger studio, but even then I'd prefer to finish the process on my own terms n environment. Everyone is different , it's just what works for you that's important, to stand and stick with your creative intuition is always best.

CC: Is the song crafting process the same with **SPC ECO** as it was with **Curve**? Are you ever hands-on with lyrics or vocal melody?

Dean: More or less the same, I explore in the hope I get something like, the sound library is constantly evolving, thats always the element of change, new sounds, drones n' whatever grabs your attention is the always the driving force that steers the process, but the actual procedure is always similar, find something that sparks and go with the flow.

Re: lyrics and Melody etc - hardly at all, the odd note, coax, or vibe to Rose during the take is about as far as that goes, I occasionally contribute a bridge or chorus vocal thing but it's all left to Rose to do whatever she wants. We don't use headphones and are always next to each other during the take, it works for us that way, I always like to encourage and steer her when she hits on something great, fortunately Rose is a very gifted singer, all of the vocals are done on the fly and in the moment, I edit afterwards but nothing is pre written, it's an amazing talent, you have it or you don't, Rose has it.

(Culture Cringe Editor's note: AGREED. Rose, the voice of SPC ECO, is one of my current FAVORITE vocalists around)

CC: When you are composing your songs, is there a standard starting point that you use in the very beginning? Like, do the song ideas tend to start with a drum pattern, a guitar melody, bass line, or something like that? Or do they all come about differently?

Dean: Start ups tend to be from an atmospheric sound that is able to take on and absorb anything you can imagine around it, reason being it's less structured and formed, you have more space to loose yourself rather than being governed from the off, so the more out there from the start the more chance you have if maintaining interest n motivation with the adds around it. Those ideas tend to result into something deeper n more multi fractal. Again though, songs can come from anywhere, it's very much how the mood takes you, always let yourself guide it, the absolute vibe kill is trying to write something specific that is more to do with what others want rather than what you want, whenever I think I wanna write something specific it always goes to shit very quickly. Follow your heart n soul, it knows best, fuck everything else.

CC: As a touring musician you played with some amazing people - most notably **Eurythmics** and **Sinead O'Conner** - so you've played with two of the most iconic vocalists of all time. I'm a big fan of both....is there a little something you can tell us - something that stands out in your memory - about either of those experiences?

Dean: Both were timely amazing experiences, working with Dave and Annie was like an extension of what I already knew and believed in, i.e. do it yourself, they made Sweet Dreams and Love Is A Stranger on an 8 track on their own as they did with all subsequent releases, I remember being in the church with them both recording the Touch album, it was a life affirming time, I was nurtured in the best way possible by them both, we toured the world and shared stages with bands like Talking Heads and U2 and it was all brilliant. Annie was a brilliant performer, a truly inspiring person to be around, they both were. I recently spoke with Dave about it all, we inspire one another which is always good, after all it was Dave's label that Curve signed to in an attempt to keep everything in house and under wraps (studios included) but it needed funding as labels do and that's where things get clouded and foggy, but that's another thing entirely.

Sinead was different but again very inspirational to be part of. Nothing Compares just broke in the US so it was a brilliant time to go and tour, some amazing experiences, awesome shows and the never a dull moment Sinead activities that shook the industry, like the national anthem thing and the tearing Pope times. I adored her as many did and still do. Sinead will always burn brighter than any star now or then. Absolute one off talent and persona. Truly exceptional in every way. I miss her. Also what happens on the road stays on the road, and never get off the tour bus on your own.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

CC: I've seen programs and websites where people can use Artificial Intelligence to create beats, rhythms....even whole songs by using just a few typed prompts. What are your thoughts on that? Is AI a danger to the art of songwriting?

Dean: As with any tech it can be brilliant or utter shite. Very much down to the user and the prompts used and sounds being prompted, I haven't used it as known now but I have always used a form of AI as far back as I can remember, first proper thing I got my hands on was an emulator in the 80s, which was seen as the devil that would destroy music, it's all bollocks if you make it so, use it and your ears to make what you can imagine, there's nothing wrong with it, just turn it up and fuck with the presets, don't be lazy - then again do be lazy but make sure you stuff the sound into some fucked up weird fx box and make it your own. I embrace all new musical technologies and tools, bring it on. Shitty music has always been there, it's realizing it - thats the trick. Make music that doesn't suck by any means available to you.

CC: Bonus Question! A lot of your music feels so cinematic to me....as if it begs to be paired with visuals. So.... I'm sure you're a fan of movies! When it comes to film, do you have a favorite movie score of all time, or a favorite movie moment when a composition completely made the scene memorable for you?

Dean: Trainspotting was seminal for me, summed up an era so well, regarding soundtracks - I thought Inception and Interstellar worked really well, I don't have a favourite score as such, some of the best uses of music I have no idea who made them, mostly from obscure cinephile movies I've seen, brilliant sound design, no idea who made it tho. Last great sound design film I noticed was The Substance, I only notice it when it's good otherwise it's mostly just functional. SPC ECO would work well in a lot of filmic scenarios, I tend to approach all the music I make in a filmic visual way, foggy weirdness with fractals of multi layered light. I'll leave it there.

THANKS SO MUCH, DEAN FOR THE INTERVIEW!

EVERYONE GO CHECK OUT THE TUNES ASAP

HOLD ON TO YOUR PUMPKIN PAIL, THIS COULD GET WILD

AND NOW, A TALE OF A TRUE HAUNTING.....

PARENTAL DISCRETION IS ADVISED

Ever lived in a house that was legit HAUNTED? Well I totally have, it was around 25 years ago and it's still standing - and probably not far from where you picked this very zine up. Of course I won't disclose the location for REASONS. Makes sense, right? It was - and still is - an old house that has been divided into apartments. That's all I'll tell you. Does that narrow it down? Have I said too much already??

The upstairs apartment was where the main activity was. I didn't live up there, but I felt really bad for the girl who did. She would be driven out of the apt sometimes in the **middle of the night,** and she would go away for days at a time. One time when I was outside, she came running out and asked me to come upstairs with her to witness what she had just walked into. I went up, and it was a very bad vibe up there. The air was heavy. There were blood streaks on the kitchen floor and stuff was scattered all around. I didn't like it one bit. She later found out through a co-worker that someone had been murdered in that very apartment around 15 years earlier.

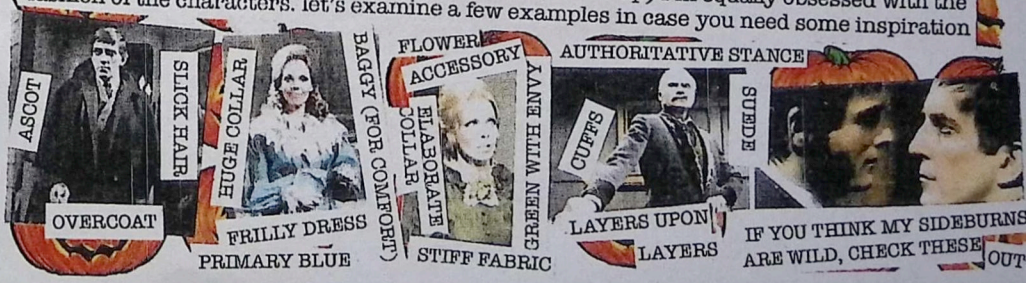
One night she left in the middle of the night. I heard her running down the stairs and slamming doors on her way out....it woke me up in my downstairs apartment. I didn't think too much of it. The next morning, her family showed back up with her and promptly moved her out. I went up to her in the front yard and asked what was up, and she told me that the night before she was just laying in bed...about to fall asleep. Suddenly her bedroom door opened on it's own, then she heard footsteps slowly walking up to her bed. The footsteps walked all the way around her bed, slowly, then stopped right next to her head. She jumped up, grabbed her purse, and left. That was the final straw I guess.

The night after she moved out, wild things totally happened. Around 10 pm I heard someone run down the apartment steps, reach the bottom, then slowly walk back up. It should be noted that the steps were on the other side of one of my apartment walls. It literally shook my wall! SO YEAH it freaked me the hell out. I thought someone had broken in or something. I waited.....then it happened again. And again. And again. I got my nerve up and opened my door, then opened the door to the upstairs apartment. No one there, just total darkness. The guy that lived across the hall came out too and was like, what the hell is going on?? We decided to go up there. Screw it. Turned on the lights, walked up.....EMPTY. No one. Ugh.... We went back downstairs and sat on the front porch - really freaked out. It happened again. And again. The guy that lived across the hall turned pale. We approached the door that led to the stairs and just waited.....then BOOM BOOM BOOM the sound of someone running down happened again and it stopped right on the other side of the damn door. I flung it open. No one. I've never been as scared and freaked out since. It only happened that one night, never again. Someone new moved in shortly after, and I moved out not long after that.

(THE END)

fashion corner: examining DARK SHADOWS 1966-1971

while i'm obsessed with Dark Shadows bloopers (look it up) I'm equally obsessed with the fashion of the characters. let's examine a few examples in case you need some inspiration

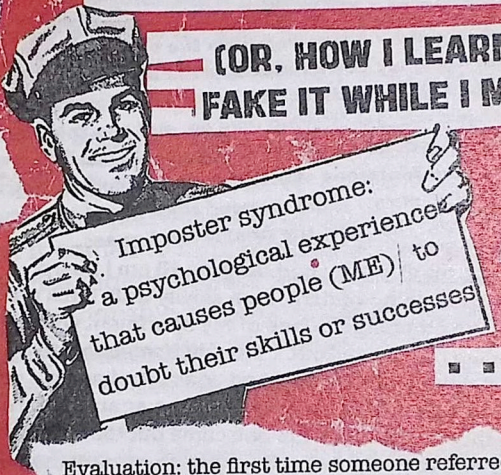


A STUDY TO BE INCLUDED IN THE UPCOMING MOLLY NILSSON PUBLISHED "AMATEUR" ZINE

A HARROWING, TRUE STORY!!!

EXPOSING THE AMATEUR ARTIST SUFFERING FROM IMPOSTER SYNDROME

(OR, HOW I LEARNED TO FAKE IT WHILE I MADE IT)



STRANGE...

...BUT TRUE!!!!

Evaluation: the first time someone referred to me as an "artist" I said "wait what **HUH?**" Putting out zines made of printed paper composed of ridiculous thoughts and ideas held together by cheap glue sticks has been a passion for **YEARS** but I never considered it anything worthy of a title like ARTIST - here comes the imposter syndrome. So am I more an amateur, because accepting **anything** in return for my printed ramblings would make the imposter syndrome creep in **even harder!** It creeps, and it creeps, and it creeps. As if being beamed into my head via 1980s era satellite TV dishes that suddenly became active after **decades** of being dormant. But sometimes, out in the wild, someone will approach me and tell me that they enjoy the press that I put out..

AND.

I will admit that for a brief fleeting moment I feel less like an **imposter** and more like an **artist** who could see themselves doing this very thing again and again for **as long as my hands are able.**

THANK YOU FOR READING, AS ALWAYS CHECK OUT MY INSTA AND WEBSITE - WWW.CULTURECRINGE.ORG.